regard to the steps taken by the State Governments for implementation of National Population Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No Sir. No guidelines have been received from the National Human Rights Commission. However, a notice was received from the National Human Rights Commission on a complaint filed by the 'Centre for Women's Development Studies' in respect of the Population Policy. It has been alleged in the complaint that the letter and spirit of the National Population Policy (NPP) is being violated in various ways and NHRC has been requested to take cognizance of the violation and to direct States to strike down the provisions in their State Population Policy which violate the principles of NPP 2000.

(c) The Department of Family Welfare does not support the disincentives proposed in some State Population Policies as they violate the principle of National Population Policy, 2000. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has, in his letter to Chief Ministers of all States/UTs dated 2nd August, 2002 (Statement Annexed) [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question no 507 (c)] emphasized the need for having a common conceptual frame work while formulating State Population Policies and Strategies. Government of India has already constituted a 'National Level Resource Committee' vide Order dated 8th March, 2002 to provide technical support to State Governments in formulation of State Population Policies in consonance with letter and spirit of the National Population Policy 2000.

SC directives on sex determination tests

519. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite SC orders on abortions and sex determination tests, many clinics are issuing advertisements in newspapers for performing abortions and sex determination tests;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the month of October, 2002 the SC has issued directions to all the State Governments and U.Ts. to take appropriate action against the errant clinics; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) While hearing a PIL (Writ Petition No. 301 of 2000 filed by CEHAT and Others v/s Union of India and Others) the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has been issuing directions since May 2001 to the Union of India as well as States/U.Ts. for implementation of the provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. The directions also include direction to take prompt action against any person or body who issues or caused to be issued any advertisement in any manner regarding availability of facilities of pre-natal determination of sex in violation of Section 22 of the Act.

Since implementation of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 rests with States/U.Ts., they have been advised to take action as per the directions of the Court.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) While hearing a PIL (Writ Petition No. 301 of 2000 filed by CEHAT and Others v/s Union of India and Others) on 7.10.2002, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, inter-alia stated that the learned counsel for the petitioners has pointed out that some of the States/UTs, particularly the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi are not stopping the advertisements in the newspaper issued by some clinics for carrying out sex determination and/or abortion. Therefore, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the competent authorities of the States/U.Ts. to take appropriate actions against such clincis.

Expenditure on health services

†520. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita expenditure on health services in India is the lowest in the world;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.